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13 March 1959

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Copy No. C 63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 49
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X
CLASS. CHANGED TO: T S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 4-4-80 REVIEWER:

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13 MARCH 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Anti-Chinese outbreak in Tibet. ①

II. ASIA-AFRICA

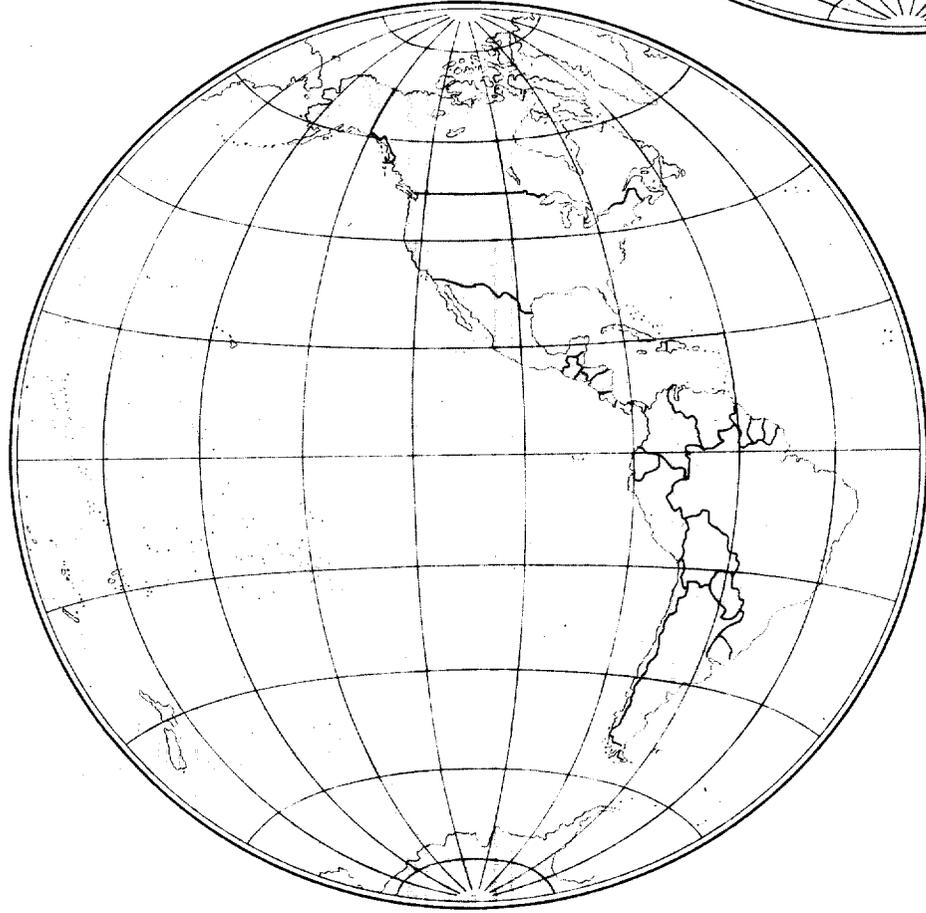
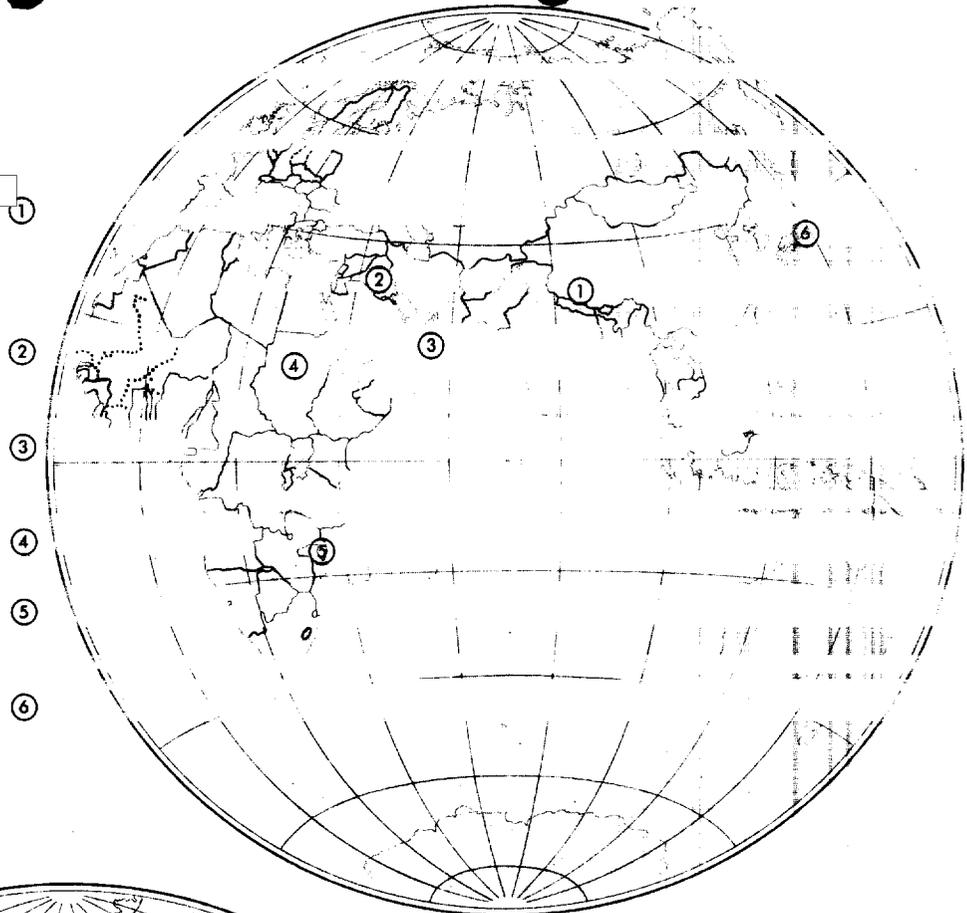
Iraqi Communists pressing Qasim to arm their paramilitary force. ②

Saudi Arabia planning further arms supply to Omani rebels. ③

Sudan - Leader of army group reported planning to take complete control of government. ④

Nyasaland - Disorders continuing despite arrests of leaders. ⑤

Japanese Socialists join Communists in campaign against US-Japanese security treaty. ⑥



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

13 March 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

SIRAB

Tibet: []

[] a []
"tense" situation developed in Lhasa and perhaps other areas of Tibet early in March. On 10 March, Tibetan rebels "knocked out" a Chinese Communist outpost held by 80 men and by 11 March had seized some "fortifications and field emplacements" outside of Lhasa. Peiping apparently ordered an "all-out" attack on the rebels. The unrest in the Lhasa area appears to be one of the more serious outbreaks there since the Communists occupied Tibet in 1951. []

No

[] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iraq: Local Communists have seized the opportunity provided by the failure of the Mosul revolt to renew pressure on Qasim for the arming of the Communist-controlled Popular Resistance Force, a further purge of the government and army, the execution of antiregime prisoners condemned by the "people's court," and Iraq's immediate withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact. These demands, "which can no longer wait," are being broadcast by the Baghdad radio, which is under the control of a Communist director, as well as by the Communist press. Prominent non-Communist newspapers in Baghdad have been put out of action as the result of the destruction of their equipment by mobs. [] (Page 2)

OK

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

Oman: The Egyptian-dominated Arab League and Saudi Arabia appear determined to promote continuation of the Omani rebellion against the British-backed Sultan of Muscat, [redacted]

[redacted] The Saudis plan to supply more arms, and the Arab League has voted several hundred thousand dollars in additional aid. [redacted]

[redacted] The Chinese Communists are reported also to have made a recent offer of financial aid. The rebels were given a severe setback in mid-January when picked British troops seized an important base in the Omani highlands. Rebel leaders remain at large, however, and may plan to renew armed action when the intense summer heat compels withdrawal of British forces from Oman next month. [redacted]

(Page 3)

NO

Sudan: Brigadier Shannan, leader of the junior officers' movement which has already forced changes in the government, is reported to be planning a further move about 22 March to take complete control. Such action is likely to provoke a violent counteraction by the Ansar tribes. Many of the tribesmen have remained in the Khartoum area and more are arriving every day, although the leader of their sect on 10 March urged them to return to their homes. [redacted]

(Page 4)

NO

Nyasaland: Sporadic outbreaks of nationalist disorders are continuing. The situation now is regarded as "very serious" in outlying areas, where organized acts of terrorism are occurring, and government officials of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland appear disconcerted that widespread arrests of leaders have not been effective. London has alerted troops but hopes to calm the situation by offering discussions with moderate Nyasaland nationalists. [redacted]

(Page 5)

OK

Japan: Japanese Socialists, in a victory for the left wing of the party, have decided to form a front with Japan's largest labor federation, the Communist party, and several other leftist organizations in a nationwide campaign to abolish the US-Japan security treaty. The campaign is likely to generate anti-treaty and anti-American sentiment, although its extreme leftist sponsorship will hamper its effectiveness. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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DAILY BRIEF

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**III. SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS AND ESTIMATES**

(Available during the preceding week)

The Outlook for Iran. NIE 34-59. 3 March 1959. ~~(SECRET)~~

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DAILY BRIEF
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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Serious Unrest Reported in Tibet

[redacted] serious
 unrest occurred in Lhasa and perhaps other areas of Tibet early in March. On 10 March, Tibetan rebels "knocked out" a Chinese Communist outpost held by 80 men, and by 11 March they had seized some "fortifications and field emplacements" outside of Lhasa. On the latter date Peiping apparently ordered an "all-out" attack on the rebels.]

[The unrest appears to be one of the largest outbreaks in the Lhasa area in recent years and indicates that Tibetan dissidence continues to plague the Chinese. Though sporadic and largely unorganized, Tibetan rebel activity increased during 1958 and has slowed down Chinese plans for Tibet. There is some indication that Peiping has stepped up its efforts to end the dissidence. The current rebel activity may be partly in response to Chinese action.]

[Since April 1958, the Chinese Communists have moved large numbers of troops, including infantry and cavalry regiments and other unidentified units, into Tibet and western China. Peiping has 67,000 troops stationed in Tibet proper, most of them in the Lhasa area.] [redacted]

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II. ASIA -AFRICA

Iraqi Communists Increase Pressure on Qasim Government

The Iraqi Communists are attempting to cash in on the aftermath of the Mosul revolt by reiterating demands which would greatly increase their hold over the Qasim regime. These demands include a purge of the government and army, the execution of antiregime prisoners condemned by the "people's court," the arming of the Communist-controlled Popular Resistance Forces, immediate withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact, and turning over key positions in all departments to those who are "known" to support the present regime and the "only leader" Qasim.

These demands, "which can no longer wait," are continually being broadcast over Communist-directed Baghdad radio, as well as appearing in the Communist press. Iraqi nationalist and pro-Nasir newspapers in Baghdad have been closed, and their printing equipment destroyed by the Communist-directed mob. [Pro-UAR elements are said to be in a state of panic, and former Baathist Minister of Development Fuad Rikabi is in hiding. Many Baath party members have been arrested, and others are preparing to flee to Damascus. Additional reports say the arrests have been extended to the army.]

On 12 March, Nasir followed up his anti-Communist speech of the previous day with an even stronger personal attack on Qasim. He expressed confidence that the Iraqi people would not long allow Qasim and his Communist "masters" to keep Iraq out of the Arab nationalist camp. He added that the UAR did not intend to retaliate against Iraqi "provocation," such as the strafing of a Syrian village by Iraqi planes in pursuit of tribesmen fleeing the Mosul area. The UAR nevertheless is reported to have protested strongly to the Iraqi Government over the incident as well as over the ouster of its representatives in Baghdad. The UAR press is attacking Qasim from all angles, including allegations that his aims are in line with the Arab world's number-one enemy--Israel.

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~~TOP SECRET~~Continuation of Omani Rebellion Sought by Arab States

[redacted]
[redacted] the UAR and Saudi Arabia are determined to promote continuation of the Omani rebellion against the British-backed Sultan of Muscat.

[redacted] the political committee of the UAR-dominated Arab League had recommended a grant of a minimum of 143,000 Egyptian pounds (\$410,000) to the Omani rebels. In a message on 2 March, the director of supplies at a Saudi arms depot inquired whether mines, fuzes, anti-aircraft machine guns, and bazookas were available for delivery to Saud ibn Jiluwi, governor of Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province. In the past, [redacted] delivery of such weapons to ibn Jiluwi have been associated with their supply to the Omani rebels. [The Chinese Communist Government is reported to have expressed willingness recently to grant financial aid through the UAR to the anti-British rebels.]

The Omani rebels were given a severe setback in mid-January when special British troops seized an important rebel base in the Omanis' mountain refuge. Despite the serious disruption of rebel activity, their three chief leaders remain at large and apparently hopeful of continuing the rebellion.

Armed action against the Sultan of Muscat's forces may be renewed next month, when most British troops will leave because of the intense summer heat. Although London plans to increase aid to the Sultan of Muscat's troops, these forces in the past were no match for the rebels, while the Sultan has deliberately absented himself from Muscat for many months and shown little leadership in the struggle. Saudi willingness to continue undermining the British-backed Sultan probably derives in part from resentment over occupation of Saudi-claimed territory at the base of the Qatar Peninsula by the British-supported Sheik of Abu Dhabi. [redacted]

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~~SECRET~~The Sudanese Situation

[Brigadier Abd al-Rahim Shannan is reported to be planning to act about 22 March to take complete control of the Sudanese Government. Shannan is one of three regional commanders who gained membership in the Supreme Military Council and the cabinet as a result of their leadership of the 5 March coup; the other two, Brigadiers Abdullah and al-Amin, are also apparently to participate in the new effort.]

[Brigadier Shannan's brother, Abd al-Hafiz Shannan, a leading organizer of the junior officers' movement, has reportedly formulated the tentative plan for action. At the next meeting of the Supreme Military Council, Brigadier Shannan is to demand the replacement of most of its senior members, with the exception of Abboud himself. Middle-ranking and junior officers allied with Shannan are to assure his control of whatever army units may be required to enforce this demand. The Shannan group will then proceed to the reorganization of the government.]

[Action by the Shannan group to take complete control is likely to cause violent counteraction by the Ansar tribesmen. The Mahdi, their religious leader, on 10 March urged the tribesmen to return to their homes and await his order, but many have disregarded him and remained in the Khartoum area; more are reported to be arriving every day.]

[Further evidence of dissension in the present Supreme Military Council]

[One of the commanders, Brigadier al-Amin, attempted to appoint an officer to head the Central Command; other council members countermanded his order and assigned their choice instead.]

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~~SECRET~~Unrest Continues in Nyasaland

[Sporadic disorders continue throughout Nyasaland. [redacted] the situation is serious in the outlying areas; it is tense, though under control, in the towns. Rhodesian officials appear surprised that the widespread arrest of nationalists--over 400 detained in Nyasaland--has not crippled the rebel movement, which is growing more resourceful in its sabotage efforts. The British see no indication of outside involvement in the terrorism but attribute the movement's strength to the psychological boost African nationalism received from the Accra conference of last December.]

[London has alerted troops in Kenya for possible duty in Nyasaland, but hesitates to provoke a possible crisis in relations with the federation government by sending them without a request from the Rhodesian prime minister. Hoping to calm the situation, Britain has sent the Colonial minister of state to Nyasaland on a fact-finding mission. Britain hopes that moderate Nyasaland nationalists such as Wellington Chirwa will be willing to discuss constitutional reforms. However, Chirwa and other moderates appear to have lost most of their influence to extremist Dr. Hastings Banda, and, in any case, would still demand self-government for Nyasaland outside the federation.] [redacted]

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Japanese Socialists Prepare Campaign Against US-Japan Security Treaty

The Japanese Socialist party has decided to establish a united front with Sohyo--Japan's largest leftist labor federation, the Communist party, and other leftist organizations in a nationwide movement to abolish the US-Japan security treaty. The decision is a marked triumph for the Socialist left-wing opponents and assures that the campaign will be under the leadership of pro-Communist elements. The Socialists hope united opposition to the treaty will be as successful as the earlier joint campaign against the Kishi government on the police-powers bill.

The US embassy doubts that the Socialists can muster as much support against the security treaty as they did against the police bill. The Kishi government, however, already hampered by a division of opinion within conservative party ranks concerning revision of the treaty and its accompanying administrative agreement, probably will not risk a contest with the Socialists in the Diet until conservative unity can be achieved.

Public rallies and demonstrations against the treaty are scheduled to begin on 28 March. If they attract sufficient public support, the Socialists will be encouraged to use extreme measures in the Diet--such as physical violence or boycotting the sessions--when the government does submit the revisions for ratification.

In a related development, Social Secretary General Inejiro Asanuma, a right-wing leader who currently is heading a Socialist mission to Peiping, allegedly told Chinese Communist officials that "American imperialism" is the "common enemy" of Japan and China. The American Embassy in Tokyo believes that Asanuma's statement, unless repudiated, may signify Socialist abandonment of "neutrality" in favor of outright "anti-Americanism." (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**THE PRESIDENT****The Vice President****Executive Offices of the White House**

Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

Scientific Adviser to the President

Director of the Budget

Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization

Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination

Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

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Executive Secretary, National Security Council

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration

The Counselor

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Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

The Director, The Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Special Operations

Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy

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The Secretary of Commerce

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

National Security Agency

The Director

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The Director

United States Information Agency

The Director

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